

lovestrong.

- 2 introduction
- 4 bluebird
- 12 arms
- 22 bang bang bang
- 29 distance
- 34 jar of hearts
- 42 mine
- 50 interlude
- 51 penguin
- 56 miles
- 64 the lonely
- 70 sad song
- 79 tragedy

This book was approved by Christina Perri

Piano/vocal arrangements by John Nicholas

Cherry Lane Music Company Director of Publications/Project Editor: Mark Phillips

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christina perri

In July 2010, a struggling singer-songwriter and musician named Christina Perri had a life-changing moment when she was asked to perform a song she had written, a defiant break-up anthem called "Jar of Hearts," on the Fox show *So You Think You Can Dance*. The raw, emotional quality of her performance connected with viewers and catapulted the 24-year-old Philadelphia native into the public eye. "Jar of Hearts" went on to sell a million downloads and land Perri, who was then supporting herself as a café manager in Beverly Hills, a deal with Atlantic Records.

"Jar of Hearts" is just one of 12 brutally honest gems that Perri unveils on her debut album *lovestrong.*, a title she says reflects how her heart feels today. "I looked at the album as a whole piece and the two themes that stood out were love and strength," she says. "It really titled itself. Writing about love is just who I am. I've tried to write about other things, but ultimately this is what comes out of me."

Perri lays herself bare on *lovestrong*., using her soaring, bittersweet voice and expressive piano playing to sketch out her stories. Some, like "Penguin" and "Arms," are happy and hopeful; some, like "Bang Bang" and "Mine," are fun and playful; and others, like "The Lonely" and "Jar of Hearts," are downright wrenching. The common thread? "They're all songs I felt I needed to give away," she says. "I have been writing songs since I was 15, so I reached into my arsenal and picked the ones I felt others should hear. My intention for my music is pretty simple: I want to make people feel less broken and alone."

Perri sets *lovestrong*.'s hopeful tone with the second single, "Arms," a towering acoustic-guitar driven tune that builds to an urgent crescendo as its tale of the fight between the heart and the mind unfolds. "Your heart wants to be loved, but your head is telling you that you shouldn't be with that person," Perri says. "The song is about that struggle and finally giving in and letting love win."

It didn't really register how emotionally raw the album was going to be until Perri's 20th day in the recording studio. "In the vocal booth, I had to go back to the place and time that made me feel so vulnerable and rip open old wounds to sing each song, sometimes two songs in a day," she says. "Emotionally, it was the hardest 33 days of my life, but it was worth it because the result is that this album is 100 percent me. It's heartfelt, real, bold, honest, vulnerable, hopeful, strong, poetic, bluesy, gritty, pretty, and simple."

Produced by Joe Chiccareli (White Stripes, Tori Amos) and mixed by Michael Brauer (Coldplay, Regina Spektor), *lovestrong*. boasts a bold creative vision that is very much in keeping with Perri's spirited personality. A petite, tattooed ball of energy with an engaging smile, she has always embraced life to the fullest. Her adventures have included touring the world as an assistant to a rock band, spending a year at a prestigious university, producing popular music videos, making olive oil in Italy, and even serving as a fashionista barista in Beverly Hills.

On June 30, 2010, Perri got word that "Jar of Hearts" was going to air on *So You Think You Can Dance* as a backdrop to a memorable piece choreographed by Stacey Tookey. Viewers began downloading the song from



iTunes in droves, sending "Jar of Hearts" into the Top 10 on the iTunes Pop chart and into the Top 15 on the Overall chart overnight. Impressed, *SYTYCD*'s producers invited Perri to play the song live on the show two weeks later. After Perri performed the song on July 15, "Jar of Hearts" landed at No. 25 on the *Billboard* Hot 100 chart, at No. 1 on Amazon's digital singles chart, and sold 200,000 downloads in three weeks. "While all of this was happening, I barely slept," Perri says, "because I was afraid it was just a dream; that I'd wake up and none of it would be real. One minute I didn't exist in the music world and the next minute I did."

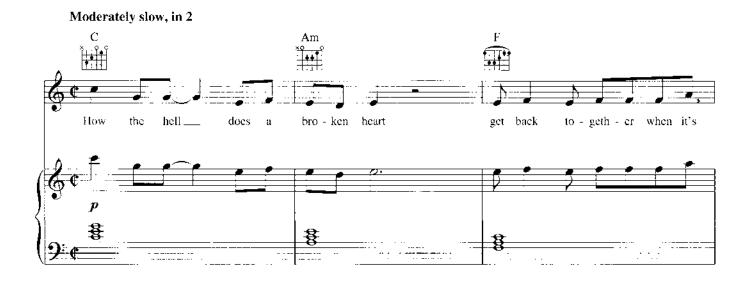
Perri had actually been preparing for her big moment since she was a child. The daughter of hairdressers (whom she describes as "not musical, though my mom can whistle in many octaves"), Perri first sang in public at her Holy Communion at age six. Piano lessons began at age 8, but her piano teacher "fired" her (as she puts it) because "I would change the endings to the songs when I didn't like the way they were written." Eventually, Perri picked up a guitar and taught herself to play. She was in London working as a gofer for her brother's band Silvertide when she got word that she had been accepted to Philadelphia's prestigious University of the Arts with a sizeable scholarship. She attended for a year, but took a leave of absence to visit her father's extensive family in Italy. "I was 19 and I needed to soul search," she says. "I was still writing music, but I didn't know what I wanted to do with my life."

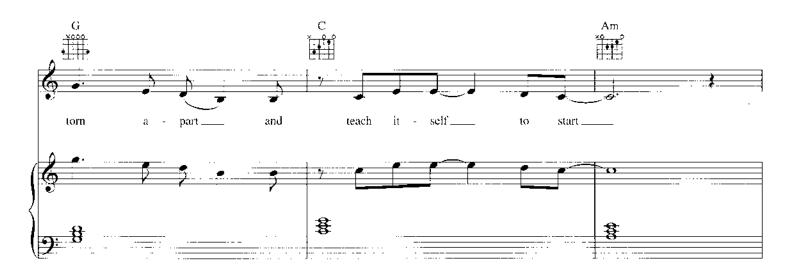
Still searching, Perri moved to Los Angeles with a suitcase and a guitar and recommitted herself to being a singer and a songwriter. She posted YouTube videos of herself performing her own songs, as well as covers, and shared her struggles in her uniquely humorous way. A video of one of her original compositions, "Tragedy" (which is included on *lovestrong*.), caught the attention of Bill Silva Management, who signed on to represent her. And so began Perri's charmed odyssey.

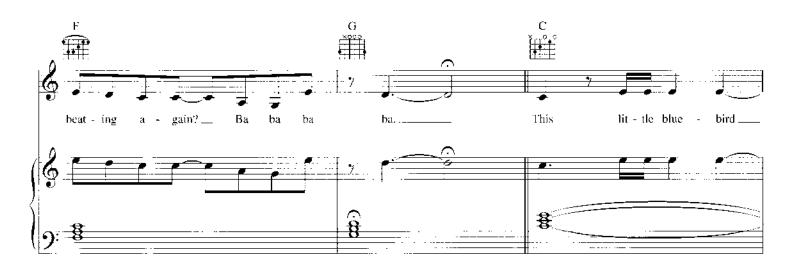
"Every day something happens that blows my mind," she says. "Being able to wake up and play music is more than I've ever dreamed my life could be. I'm looking forward to sharing my experiences, my hope, my strength, my guts, and my heart with the world."

Bluebird

Words and Music by Christina Perri















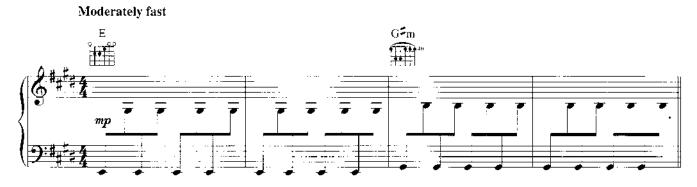


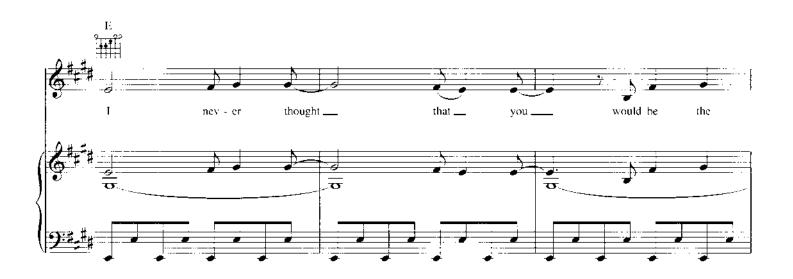


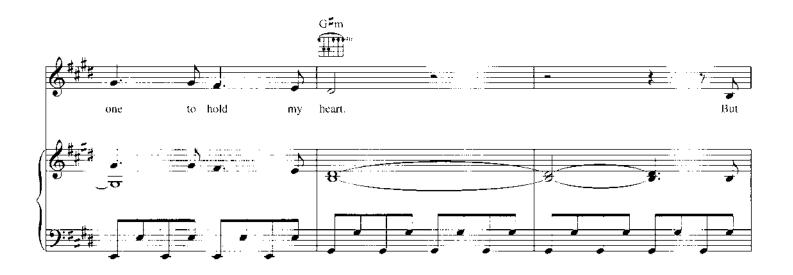


Arms

Words and Music by Christina Perri and David Hodges













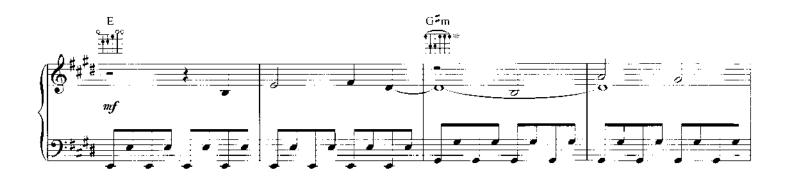




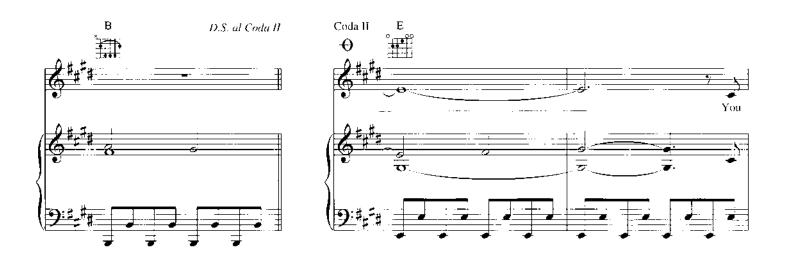


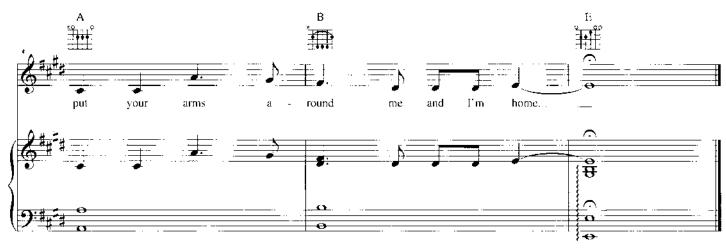












Bang Bang Bang

Words and Music by Barrett Yeretsian, Christina Perri and Drew Lawrence Moderately, in 2 $(\sqrt{1} = \overline{j})^{\frac{1}{2}}$ G mf' life know been __ .. ver







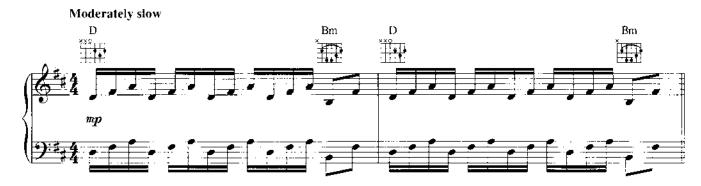


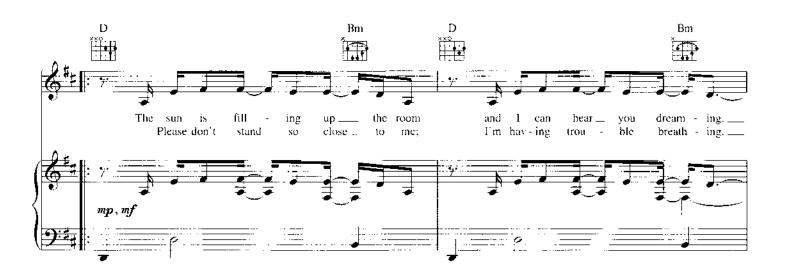


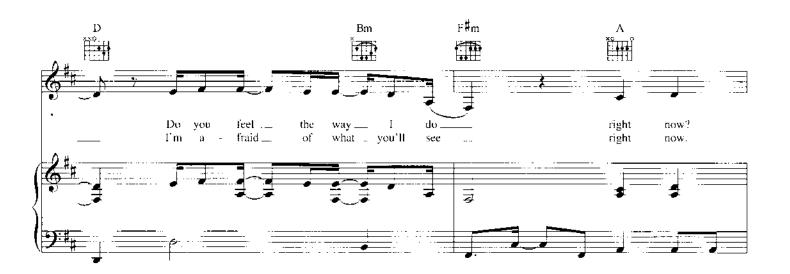


Distance

Words and Music by Christina Perri and David Hodges















Jar of Hearts

Words and Music by Barrett Yeretsian, Christina Perri and Drew Lawrence

















Mine

Words and Music by Christina Perri

















Interlude

Words and Music by Christina Perri and David Hodges



Penguin

Words and Music by Christina Perri and John Anderson



^{*}Guitarists: Use open D tuning (low to high: D-A-D-Fz-A-D) with capo at 2nd fret. Fret numbers to right of chord diagrams are relative to capo.









Miles

Words and Music by Christina Perri, David Hodges and Greg Kurstin

















The Lonely

Words and Music by Christina Perri and David Hodges













Sad Song

Words and Music by Christina Perri



















Tragedy

Words and Music by Christina Perri and Nick Perri













